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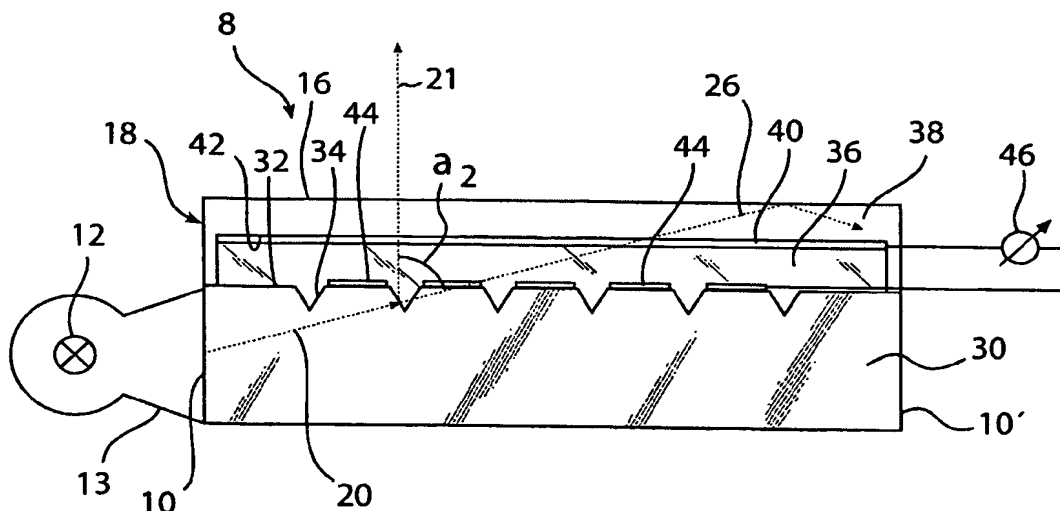
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(54) Title: **ILLUMINATION SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: An illumination system (8) comprises an optical waveguide (18) which is made from optically transparent components and has four end faces (10, 10'). A light source (12) whose light is coupled into the optical waveguide (18) via one of the end faces (10) is situated opposite this end face (10). The optical waveguide (18) has a light guide (30). A birefringent layer (36) comprising liquid crystals is provided on the light guide (30) at an exit surface side thereof. A first electrode (40) and a second electrode (44) both have electrical contact with the birefringent layer (36) and are connected to a voltage generator (46). By varying the voltage applied between the electrodes (40, 44), the birefringent properties of the birefringent layer (36) comprising the liquid crystals may be varied to control the direction of light coupled out via the exit surface (16).



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